

Message Text

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42

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

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R 051500Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L OUAGADOUGOU 1834

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, UV

SUBJECT: RUMORED RESIGNATION OF MINISTER OF PLAN

1. PERSISTENT RUMORS HAVE BEEN CIRCULATING IN
OUAGADOUGOU THESE PAST FEW DAYS TO EFFECT THT MINISTER
OF PLAN ANTOINE DAKOURE HAS SUBMITTED HIS RESIGNATION
TO PRESIDENT LAMIZANA.

2. LAMIZANA ASKED TO SEE ME LATE AFTERNOON SEPT 04,
HE REFERRED IMMEDIATELY TO THESE RUMORS, WHICH HE SAID
WERE BEING CIRCULATED BY FORMER HEADS OF VARIOUS BANNED
POLITICAL PARTIES WHO WERE TRYING TO CREATE DISSENSION
AMONG MEMBERS OF PRESENT REGIME. HE SAID THAT THEY
EVEN ALLEGED THAT DAKOURE'S RESIGNATION HAD BEEN
ANNOUNCED OVER THE VOA AND FRANCE-INTER.

3. LAMIZANA SAID HE WANTED TO ASSURE ME THAT THERE
WAS NOT ONE IOTA OF TRUTH IN THESE RUNORS. DAKOURE
HAD GONE TO PARIS FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT AT PRESIDENT'S
URGING, AND HAD THEN TAKEN A FEW WEEKS VACATION IN
SOUTHERN FRANCE. PRESIDENT HAD TALKED TO HIM ON THE
PHONE ONLY YESTERDAY AND THY HAD AGREED THAT DAKOURE
WOULD RETURN TO OUAGADOUGOU ON SEPTEMBER 10. PRESIDENT
CONSIDERED DAKOURE ONE OF HIS BEST MINISTERS AND WAS
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NOT BOUT TO LET HIM GO. PRESIDENT INSISTED THAT

DAKOURE HAD NOT BEEN INVOLVED IN ANY WAY IN RECENT MISHANDLING OF GRAIN DISTRIBUTION (OUAGA A-32) EVEN THOUGH HIS ENEMIES WERE DOING THEIR BEST TO PLACE THE BLAME ON HIM FOR THIS INCIDENT.

4. I TOLD PRESIDENT LAMIZANA THAT I HAD ALSO HEARD RUMORS OF DAKOURE'S RESIGNATION AND THAT I WAS VERY GRATIFIED HE HAD TAKEN TROUBLE OF CLARIFYING THIS MATTER FOR NE. WITH REGARD TO ALLEGED VOA BROADCAST ON DAKOUR'S RESIGNATION, I TOLD HIM I HAD NOT HEARD FRENCH-LANGUAGE BROADCAST RECENTLY BU THAT I COULD NOT IMAGINE VOA MAKING USE OF SUCH INFORMATION WITHOUT FIRST CCHECKING WITH ME.

5. COMMENT: FRENCH CHARGE WHO ALSO SAW PRESIDENT SEPTEMBER 4, PRESUMABLY BECAUSE OF ALLEGED FRANCE-INTER CONNECTION, AND WHO WAS GIVEN SAME STORY, TELLS ME THAT DCOURE DID SUBMIT HIS RESIGNATION ON TWO OCCASIONS RECENTLY BUT THAT LAMITNA REFUSED TO ACCEPT IT. FRENCH CHARGE ALSO ADDED THAT JUDGE WHO IS INVESTIGATING RECENT MISHANDLING OF GRAIN DISTRIBUTION HAD MENTIONED DAKOURE IN ONE OF HIS PRELIMINARY REPORTS AS ONE OF HIGH OFFICIAL WHO HAD BEEN NEGLIGENT IN THIS AFFAIR. LAMIZANA'S UHUSUAL SPOT OF CALLING ME AND FRENCH CHARGE ON THIS MATTER APPEARS TO INDICATE THAT DAKOURE'S CONNECTION, IF ANY, WITH GRAIN DISTRIBUTION SCANDAL WILL BE SWEPT UNDER THE RUG AND THAT HE WILL CONTINUED AS ON OF LAMIZANA'S MOST TRUSTED MINISTERS.

6. ACTION REQUESTED:M I WOULD APPREICATE CONFIRMATION THAT DAKOURE'S RESIGNATION WAS NOT MNTIONED ON RECENT VOA BROADCAST.
GRAHAM

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